

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the listing of claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An RFID tag for use as a taper-evident seal, including:
an RFID transponder having an integrated circuit chip and an antenna connected to the integrated circuit chip, the transponder being able, when intact, to communicate with an RFID interrogator device, the RFID tag having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion of the antenna or between the antenna and the integrated circuit chip, such that when the tag is broken along the line of weakness the RFID transponder is rendered unable to communicate with the RFID interrogator device;
a first web of flexible material, having an adhesive coating applied to an outer surface thereof, to enable the tag to be affixed to an article; and
a second web of flexible material,
wherein the transponder is disposed between the first and second webs of material in a laminar structure.
2. (Previously Presented) An RFID tag according to claim 1 wherein the RFID transponder further includes a supporting substrate upon which the integrated circuit chip and antenna are mounted.
3. (Currently Amended) An RFID tag according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the first and second webs of flexible material are made of paper.
4. (Currently Amended) An RFID tag according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the first and second webs of flexible material are made of plastic.
5. (Currently Amended) An RFID tag according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the line of weakness includes a line of perforations.
6. (Currently Amended) An RFID tag according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the RFID transponder is a passive RFID transponder.

7. (Currently Amended) An RFID tag according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the line of weakness is provided in the first and/or second web of flexible material.
8. (Currently Amended) An RFID tag according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 further including one or more additional lines of weakness, each of which extends across at least a portion of the antenna or between the antenna and the integrated circuit chip, such that when the seal tag is broken along any one or more of the lines of weakness the RFID transponder is rendered unable to communicate with the RFID interrogator device.
9. (Currently Amended) An RFID tag according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the antenna is a coil antenna.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a package in order to enable the detection of unauthorised access to the contents of the package, including the steps of:
 - providing an RFID tag ~~in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 9~~ having an RFID transponder having an integrated circuit chip and an antenna connected to the integrated circuit chip, the transponder being able, when intact, to communicate with an RFID interrogator device, the RFID tag having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion of the antenna or between the antenna and the integrated circuit chip, such that when the tag is broken along the line of weakness the RFID transponder is rendered unable to communicate with the RFID interrogator device, a first web of flexible material, having an adhesive coating applied to an outer surface thereof, to enable the tag to be affixed to an article, and a second web of flexible material, wherein the transponder is disposed between the first and second webs of material in a laminar structure; and
 - affixing the RFID tag to the package by means of the adhesive coating applied to the first web of flexible material of the tag, such that the line of weakness of the tag is aligned with a line of opening of the package,
 - whereby, when the package is opened along said line of opening, the tag is broken along said line of weakness.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a package in order to enable the detection of unauthorised access to the contents of the package, including the steps of:

providing a plurality of RFID tags ~~in accordance with any one of the claims 1 to 9~~, each RFID tag having an RFID transponder having an integrated circuit chip and an antenna connected to the integrated circuit chip, the transponder being able, when intact, to communicate with an RFID interrogator device, the RFID tag having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion of the antenna or between the antenna and the integrated circuit chip, such that when the tag is broken along the line of weakness the RFID transponder is rendered unable to communicate with the RFID interrogator device, a first web of flexible material, having an adhesive coating applied to an outer surface thereof, to enable the tag to be affixed to an article, and a second web of flexible material, wherein the transponder is disposed between the first and second webs of material in a laminar structure; and

affixing the plurality of RFID tags to the package by means of the adhesive coating applied to the first webs of flexible material of the tags, such that the lines of weakness of the tags are aligned with one or more lines of opening of the package,

whereby, when the package is opened along any one or more of said lines of opening, at least one of the tags is broken along the line of weakness of the tag.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting unauthorised tampering with, or removal of, an article stored within a container, including the steps of:

providing an RFID tag in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 9 having an RFID transponder having an integrated circuit chip and an antenna connected to the integrated circuit chip, the transponder being able, when intact, to communicate with an RFID interrogator device, the RFID tag having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion of the antenna or between the antenna and the integrated circuit chip, such that when the tag is broken along the line of weakness the RFID transponder is rendered unable to communicate with the RFID interrogator device, a first web of flexible material, having an adhesive coating applied to an outer surface thereof, to enable the tag to be affixed to an article, and a second web of flexible material, wherein the transponder is disposed between the first and second webs of material in a laminar structure;

affixing the RFID tag to the article by means of the adhesive coating applied to the first web of flexible material of the tag;

storing the article within the container;

subsequently interrogating the RFID tag using an RFID interrogator device;

and

detecting unauthorised tampering with, or removal of, the article by a failure of the RFID tag to respond to the RFID interrogator device.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 further including the step of providing identifying information stored within the RFID tag prior to storing the article within the container, and wherein the step of interrogating the RFID tag includes reading the identifying information from the RFID tag and the step of detecting unauthorised tampering includes detecting whether the identifying information has changed since the article was stored within the container.
14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 wherein the identifying information is transmitted electronically from a first location at which the article is stored within the container to a second location at which the RFID tag is interrogated, and detecting whether the identifying information has changed includes comparing the electronically transmitted identifying information with the identifying information read from the RFID tag.
15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 14~~claim 12 wherein the article is contained within a package, and the step of affixing the RFID tag to the article includes affixing the RFID tag to the package such that the line of weakness of the tag is aligned with a line of opening of the package, such that when the package is opened along said line of opening, the tag is broken along said line of weakness.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting unauthorised tampering with, or removal of, an article stored within a container, including the steps of:

providing a plurality of RFID tags ~~in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 9~~, each RFID tag having an integrated circuit chip and an antenna connected to the integrated circuit chip, the transponder being able, when intact, to communicate with an RFID interrogator device, the RFID tag having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion of the antenna or between the antenna and the integrated circuit chip, such that when the tag is broken along the line of weakness the RFID transponder is rendered unable to communicate with the RFID interrogator device, a first web of flexible material, having an adhesive coating applied to an outer surface thereof, to enable the tag to be affixed to an article, and a second web of flexible material, wherein the transponder is disposed between the first and second webs of material in a laminar structure;

affixing the plurality of RFID tags to the article by means of the adhesive coating applied to the first webs flexible material of the tags;

storing the article within the container;

subsequently interrogating the plurality of RFID tags using an RFID interrogator device; and

detecting unauthorised tampering with, or removal of, the article by a failure of one or more of the RFID tags to respond to the RFID interrogator device.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting unauthorised tampering with, or removal of, an article stored within a container, including the steps of:
- providing an RFID tag that includes an integrated circuit chip, an antenna connected to the integrated circuit chip, and a line of weakness extending across at least a portion of the antenna or between the antenna and the integrated circuit chip, such that when the tag is broken along said line of weakness the RFID transponder is rendered unable to communicate with a corresponding RFID interrogator device;
 - recording identifying information within the RFID tag;
 - affixing the RFID tag to the article, and storing the article within the container at a first location;
 - transmitting the identifying information electronically from the first location to a second location to which the container is transported;
 - interrogating the RFID tag at the second location using an RFID interrogation device to retrieve the identifying information stored therein; and
 - detecting unauthorised tampering with, or removal of, the article if either the RFID tag fails to respond to the RFID interrogator device or the retrieved identifying information does not correspond with the transmitted information.